

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee to meet on Thursday, September 28, at 10 a.m., for a nomination hearing on The Honorable Ned R. McWherter, to be Governor, U.S. Postal Service, and Donald S. Wasserman, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be permitted to meet Thursday, September 28, 1995, beginning at 9 a.m. in room SH-216, to conduct a mark up of spending recommendations for the budget reconciliation legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 28, 1995, at 2 p.m., in room 226, Senate Dirksen Office Building to consider nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 28, 1995, at 1:30 p.m. to hold a hearing on non-immigrant immigration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Children and Families of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet on Thursday, September 28, 1995, at 10 a.m., to consider private efforts to reshape America.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SUPPORT OF FUNDING FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION FUND [CDFI]

• Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I rise today to join my esteemed colleague from Vermont, Mr. LEAHY, to express my concern that by voting for final passage of H.R. 2099, we in the Congress are voting to eliminate funding for the Community Development Financial Institution Fund [CDFI]. The CDFI fund was established in the Community Development Banking and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994—an Act which passed the Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support. In fact, this body voted unanimously for the measure,

which sought to stimulate community lending and empower local communities by increasing access to credit and investment capital.

But Mr. President, I stand before you to offer another perspective on the importance of the CDFI fund, and that is the significant potential it holds for improving the economic conditions in Native American communities. Native American communities face some of the harshest living conditions in this country, leading some to draw comparisons with conditions in Third-World countries. Fifty-one percent of native American families living on reservations live below the poverty line, with unemployment rates on some reservations as high as 80 percent. Moreover, a recent study conducted by the Department of Housing and Urban Development found that over half of American Indian and Alaska Native families live in substandard housing, compared to the national average of 3 percent; 27 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native households are overcrowded or lack plumbing or kitchen facilities, compared to a national average of 5.4 percent; and approximately 40 percent of Native households were overcrowded, compared to a national average of 5.8 percent.

Mr. President, these conditions, under any circumstances, are unacceptable. And it is even more unacceptable that we in the Congress would turn our backs on an innovative program which would stimulate economic activity in these communities by leveraging private sector resources into permanent self-sustaining locally controlled institutions. Each \$1 million in the fund would have a substantial impact, and could create 65 to 135 new jobs; provide 100 loans to micro-enterprises and self-employment ventures; assist 20 first-time homebuyers; or construct 20 units of low-income housing. It is my understanding that there are at least 13 Indian controlled financial institutions which would be eligible for assistance from the fund, and an additional 16 tribal entities that have expressed an interest in becoming CDFI's.

Earlier this year, I joined Senators BEN NIGHORSE CAMPBELL and MCCAIN in sponsoring a bill, the Native American Financial Services Organization Act [NAFSO], which emanated from recommendations of the congressionally chartered Commission on American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Housing, and from a multi-agency Federal working group with tribal input, and was designed to dovetail with the CDFI fund, with NAFSO serving as a technical assistance provider to a second tier of primary lending institutions, or Native American Financial Institutions. The elimination of funding for the CDFI fund will have devastating ramifications for this NAFSO proposal.

Mr. President, I realize full well the climate within which we operate today, and that we in the Congress must exer-

cise great fiscal restraint. And I commend the outstanding efforts of my esteemed colleagues, the chairman of the VA-HUD appropriations subcommittee, Mr. BOND, and the ranking member, Senator MIKULSKI, for producing a bill under these constraints—a bill which attempts in many ways to address the housing needs of Indian country. I only wish to point out that we in the Congress must ever be cognizant of our national responsibilities to the native people of this Nation, and that we must endeavor to improve the conditions under which the vast majority of our Native families live.

I feel compelled to take note of the irony that over the last few days, within the context of drastic reductions to funding for Indian tribal governments under the Interior Appropriations bill, that one of the justifications offered for these severe reductions was that tribal governments must become less dependent on Federal resources and more self-sufficient. And yet, today, we are poised to eliminate funding for the Community Development Financial Institution Fund—a fund which could have made tremendous strides in enabling tribal governments to realize greater economic independence.

Mr. President, I thank you for this time, and I thank my colleague from Vermont, Mr. LEAHY, for his leadership on these matters.●

DEDICATED U.S. SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

• Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to thank our brave U.S. service men and women who with total dedication serve around the globe, but most importantly to pay tribute to four individuals who recently died in the service of our country. On August 15, 1995, Chief Warrant Officer Michael R. Baker, Chief Warrant Officer Donald J. Cunningham, Specialist Crew Chief Robert A. Rogers, and Specialist Crew Chief Dale Wood perished when their U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopter crashed into the sea off the shores of Cyprus. The crew was on a routine humanitarian mission to bring supplies and mail to the U.S. Embassy in Beirut.

U.S. service men and women worldwide are frequently responsible for humanitarian and lifesaving missions which often go unnoticed by the American people. These missions are often fraught with danger attributable to health concerns or often insurgent occupation. The Cyprus airlift is just one example where our U.S. service men and women are tasked to put themselves in harms way.

In addition to Cyprus being needed as a strategic point to support our Middle East efforts it has also become a strategic point for United States involvement in several areas of international concern, such as counterterrorist measures, narcotics trafficking, counterfeiting, money laundering, and international bank fraud. The Cyprus